

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process and apparatus for chilling and aging the front portions of poultry carcasses. The process and apparatus preferably comprise and provide for (a) separating eviscerated poultry carcasses into front portions and back portions, (b) washing the front portions, (c) conducting a fecal inspection of at least some of the front portions, (d) pre-chilling the front portions in water, (e) delivering the front portions through a reconditioning washer when the fecal inspection indicates that a failure has occurred, and (f) conducting a secondary inspection at the reconditioning wash.